



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,879	02/19/2004	Yoshinori Amagasa	F05-161937M/KQK	1985
21254	7590	04/19/2006	EXAMINER	
MCGINN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, PLLC			BROWN, VERNAL U	
8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD			ART UNIT	
SUITE 200			PAPER NUMBER	
VIENNA, VA 22182-3817			2612	

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/780,879	<b>Applicant(s)</b> AMAGASA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Vernal U. Brown	<b>Art Unit</b> 2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This action is responsive to communication filed on January 31, 2006.

#### ***Response to Amendment***

The examiner has acknowledged the amended claims 1-3, 8-9, 14-16, and the addition of claims 17-20.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki et al. US Patent 6072403 in view of Whorlow UK Patent Application Publication 2252783 and further in view of Losey International Publication 0123230.

Regarding claims 1 and 14, Iwasaki et al. teaches a door lock controller (figure 1) comprising: a transmitter (6) for transmitting a signal including a specific identification code (col. 4 lines 55-57); a receiver (3) for receiving the signal transmitted (col. 4 lines 58-59); a request switch (7) for causing the receiver to start a receipt of the signal (col. 6 lines 18-25), wherein a door lock is locked or unlocked through an actuation of the request switch in

Art Unit: 2612

accordance with the signal (col. 6 lines 44-55). Iwasaki et al is silent on teaching a controller section that determines when the receiver does not receive the signal from the transmitter and a storage section for storing a cipher on the basis of the actuation of the request switch. Losey in an art related keyless entry system invention teaches an alternative means for unlocking the vehicle door in a keyless entry system when the transmitter is unable to transmit its authentication signal (page 2 lines 16-26). Losey teaches a controller for determining when the receiver does not receive the signal from the transmitter (page 2 lines 21-26). Losey teaches requiring the user to manually enter a specific sequence using a keypad (page 5 lines 19-26) but is not explicit in teaching storing the cipher on the basis of the actuation of the request switch. Whorlow in an art related vehicle door locking system teaches entering a coded signal by the operation of switch device (door handle) and upon the correct entry of the code the vehicle door is unlock (page 7 lines 4-14). Whorlow teaches the interior light is flashed upon entry of each of digit of the code sequence (page 7 lines 9-14), a memory is inherently included for storing each code digit in order to assembly the code sequence. The flashing of the interior light provides the answer back for acknowledging the operation of the request switch.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have a controller section that determines when the receiver does not receive the signal from the transmitter and a storage section for storing a cipher on the basis of the actuation of the request switch in Iwasaki et al. because this provides an alternative means to the keyless entry system for entering the vehicle when the transmitter is unavailable for transmitting the authentication signal.

Regarding claims 2 and 4, Iwasaki et al. teaches door locking control system (see response to claim 1) but is silent on teaching an answer back section for informing an operator of

Art Unit: 2612

the actuation of the request switch. Whorlow in an art related vehicle door locking system teaches entering a coded signal by the operation of switch device (door handle) and upon the correct entry of the code the vehicle door is unlock and also teaches an answer back section which cause the interior light (illumination provided in passenger compartment) to flash and inform the user of the actuation of the door switch (page 6 lines 12-15, page 7 lines 4-14).

Whorlow teaches determining when the correct code sequence is entered (page 7), a memory is inherently included for storing each code digit entered by the actuation of the door handle in order to assembly the code sequence.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have an answer back in Iwasaki et al. because this provides an indication to the user whether or not the inputted code is accepted.

Regarding claims 3 and 5, Iwasaki et al. teaches door locking control system (see response to claim 1) but is silent on teaching an answer back section for informing an operator of the actuation of the request switch. Whorlow in an art related vehicle door locking system teaches entering a coded signal by the operation of switch device (door handle) and upon the correct entry of the code the vehicle door is unlock and also teaches an answer back section which cause the interior light (illumination provided in passenger compartment) to flash and inform the user of the actuation of the door switch (page 6 lines 12-15, page 7 lines 4-14). Whorlow teaches operating the door handle and waiting for the interior light to flash once before entering the next code (page 7 lines 9-17). The input cipher is therefore based on the number of acknowledgements because each time the light flashes once the next digit in the code sequence is entered.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have an answer back in Iwasaki et al. because this provides an indication to the user whether or not the inputted code is accepted.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Iwasaki et al. teaches initiating the unlocking of the door by operating the door handle (col. 5 lines 42-55) but is silent on teaching an answer back section provided integrally with the door switch. Whorlow in an art related vehicle door locking system teaches entering a coded signal by the operation of switch device (door handle) and upon the correct entry of the code the vehicle door is unlock and also teaches an answer back section which cause the interior light (illumination provided in passenger compartment) to flash and inform the user of the actuation of the door switch (page 6 lines 12-15, page 7 lines 4-14). The answer back section is considered integral with the request switch because the operation of the door switch is indicated by the answer back means.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the answer back means to be integral with the door switch because this provides an indication to the user of the operation of the door handle.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, Iwasaki et al. teaches door locking control system (see response to claim 1) but is silent on teaching an answer back section for informing an operator of the actuation of the request switch. Whorlow in an art related vehicle door locking system teaches entering a coded signal by the operation of switch device (door handle) and upon the correct entry of the code the vehicle door is unlock and also teaches an answer back section which cause the interior light (illumination provided in passenger compartment) to flash and inform the user of the actuation of the door switch (page 6 lines 12-15, page 7 lines 4-14).

Art Unit: 2612

Whorlow teaches determining when the correct code sequence is entered (page 7), a memory is inherently included for storing each code digit entered by the actuation of the door handle in order to assembly the code sequence.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have an answer back in Iwasaki et al. because this provides an indication to the user whether or not the inputted code is accepted.

Regarding claim 17, Iwasaki et al. teaches a door lock controller comprising:

a receiver (102);

a controller (103) in communication with the receiver (figure 1);

a request switch (7) and a door unlock mechanism that unlocks a door in response to a door unlock command (col. 6 lines 44-55). Iwasaki et al is silent on teaching a controller section that determines when the receiver does not receive the signal from the transmitter and a storage section for storing a cipher on the basis of the actuation of the request switch. Losey in an art related keyless entry system invention teaches an alternative means for unlocking the vehicle door in a keyless entry system when the transmitter is unable to transmit its authentication signal (page 2 lines 16-26). Losey teaches a controller for determining when the receiver does not receive the signal from the transmitter (page 2 lines 21-26). Losey teaches requiring the user to manually enter a specific sequence using a keypad (page 5 lines 19-26) but is not explicit in teaching storing the cipher on the basis of the actuation of the request switch. Whorlow in an art related vehicle door locking system teaches entering a coded signal by the operation of switch device (door handle) and upon the correct entry of the code the vehicle door is unlock (page 7 lines 4-14). Whorlow teaches the interior light is flashed upon entry of each of digit of the code

Art Unit: 2612

sequence (page 7 lines 9-14), a memory is inherently included for storing each code digit in order to assembly the code sequence. The flashing of the interior light provides the answer back for acknowledging the operation of the request switch.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have a controller section that determines when the receiver does not receive the signal from the transmitter and a storage section for storing a cipher on the basis of the actuation of the request switch in Iwasaki et al. because this provides an alternative means to the keyless entry system for entering the vehicle when the transmitter is unavailable for transmitting the authentication signal.

Regarding claim 18-20, Iwasaki et al. teaches initiating the unlocking of the door by operating the door handle (col. 5 lines 42-55) but is silent on teaching an input cipher based on the number of actuations of the request switch, an acknowledgment section for acknowledging actuation of the request switch. Whorlow in an art related vehicle door locking system teaches entering a coded signal by the operation of switch device (door handle) and upon the correct entry of the code the vehicle door is unlock (page 7 lines 4-14) and teaches acknowledging the operation of the door switch by flashing the interior light (page 7 lines 9-14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have an answer back in Iwasaki et al. because this provides an indication to the user whether or not the inputted code is accepted and having a cipher based on the number of actuation enhance the vehicle's security.



Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki et al. US Patent 6072403 in view of Whorlow UK Patent Application Publication 2252783 in view of Losey International Publication 0123230 and further in view of Anzai et al. US Patent 6271745.

Regarding claims 8-9, Iwasaki et al. in view of Whorlow in view of Losey teaches determining when the receiver does not receive a signal from the transmitter and provides an answer back indicator (see response to claim 1) but is silent on teaching an answer back indicator providing a different display depending on whether or not the receiver receives the signal from the transmitter. Anzai et al. in an art related keyless entry system teaches a display for providing confirmation and instruction to the user (col. 3 lines 7-11) in order to provide information to the user.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide an answer back indicator providing a different display depending on whether or not the receiver receives the signal from the transmitter because the display provides an effective means of providing information and instruction to the user.

Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki et al. US Patent 6072403 in view of Whorlow UK Patent Application Publication 2252783 in view of Losey International Publication 0123230 and further in view of Hama US Patent Application 20020042292.

Regarding claims 10-11, Iwasaki et al. in view of Whorlow in view of Losey teaches determining when the receiver does not receive a signal from the transmitter and provides an answer back indicator (see response to claim 1) but is silent on teaching the answer back

Art Unit: 2612

indicator provides a different display depending on states of the door lock. Hama in an art related wireless communication device teaches providing a different display depending on states of the door lock (paragraph 0075) in order to clearly inform the operator of state of the lock.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the answer back indicator provides a different display depending on states of the door lock in Iwasaki et al. in view of Whorlov in view of Losey because providing a different display depending on states of the door lock clearly informs the operator of state of the lock in order to avoid leaving the vehicle in an unlock state.

Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki et al. US Patent 6072403 in view of Whorlow UK Patent Application Publication 2252783 in view of Losey International Publication 0123230 and further in view of Tanaka Patent Application Publication 20030043017.

Regarding claims 12-13, Iwasaki et al teaches a request switch (7) for causing the receiver to start a receipt of the signal (col. 6 lines 18-25) but is silent on teaching an answer back section including a sound section for informing the operator by means of a sound. Tanaka in an art related vehicle theft prevention system teaches entering a code by the repeat actuation of the switch elements of the keypad and an answer back section for informing the user of the actuation of switch and the indication is provided by informing the operator by means of a sound (0086).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have an answer back for informing an operator of the actuation of the request switch and a cipher code entered as a result

Art Unit: 2612

of repeated actuation of the request switch in Iwasaki et al. in view of Whorlow in view of Losey because provides an easily detected indication that the input of the code has been accepted.

### *Conclusion*

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vernal U. Brown whose telephone number is 571-272-3060. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-7:00 Monday-Thursday.

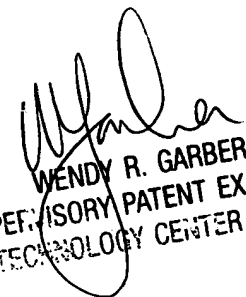
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on 571-272-7038. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2612

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Vernal Brown  
April 5, 2006



WENDY R. GARBER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600